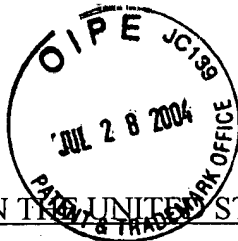


NC 84,484
App. 10/807,577



IFW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Goodwin, John L.

Serial No. 10/807,577

Filed: March 18, 2004

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR
MITIGATING TOE STRIKE IN AIRCRAFT

Group Art Unit: 3644

Examiner: John W. Eldred

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

In response to the Official Action dated June 18, 2004, the applicant hereby requests reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the following.

Claims 3, 4, 6, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as indefinite. Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Lewis et al. (U.S. 6,422,512) in view of Schneider (U.S. 6,471,242).

REMARKS

Claims 3, 4, 6, and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as indefinite. Specifically, the examiner objects to the terms balloon type airbag and side curtain type airbag, indicating that the terms are vague and indefinite because the structural limitations implied by the terms are not clear. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The term balloon type airbag is described in the specification. The specification states that balloon type airbags are the type used on the steering wheel and in front of the passenger seat in passenger cars. Applicant asserts that one skilled in the art would be very familiar with such devices, and, therefore, use of the term is in no way vague or indefinite.

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